Section VII: Social Capital (Optional)

Are there good lines of communication and good working relationships among community institutions and citizens? Information technology can be used to inform and involve citizens, building social capital.   Communities in which institutions and citizens work well together are more successful in their development efforts.

Social capital is a term used to describe how well a community works together.   Social capital and quality of life are important components in building Information Age communities. However, these two components are usually beyond the scope of most information technology committees.   Yet, social capital and quality of life are too important to leave out altogether. As a compromise, a list of indicators of social capital and quality of life are included for general discussion purposes.

Social capital factors to assess:	yes	no	future actions
Is there a local newspaper that reports community issues fairly?	☐	☐	
Is there a financial institution that contributes to community projects by providing one or more of the following—commercial or low-interest loans; grants or donation or other inc-kind contributions; lending personnel to the effort; and/or providing marketing and technical assistance?	☐	☐	
Does your community have a community foundation?	☐	☐	
Does your community have linkages with other communities and organizations, including sending a delegation to another locality and/or participating in statewide or national competitions?	☐	☐	
Does your community share joint facilities (i.e., solid waste facility, hospital or industrial park) with other localities?	☐	☐	
Does your community participate in joint efforts with other localities on particular issues?	☐	☐	
Does your community participate in regional organizations?	☐	☐	
Does your community participate in state/national organizations (i.e., League of Nebraska Municipalities, Nebraska Association of Counties, National Association of Counties)	☐	☐	
Does your community have a leadership program?	☐	☐	
Do citizens actively participate in civic groups?	☐	☐	
Is information technology used to inform citizens, recruit volunteers, and solicit input from citizens?	☐	☐	

Many of these assessment items were drawn from "Community Connections News Release: How to Succeed at Economic Development" by Jan L. Flora and Jeff S. Sharp, Iowa State University Extension, May 2, 1997, available at http://www.extension.iastate.eud/communities/news/ComCon59.html .